

Another 1982 mint error has fans on the alert

By Roger Boye

Yet another 1982-dated error coin has made its way into circulation, much to the delight of hobbyists with keen eyesight.

The latest "finds" are Kennedy half dollars missing the initials of Frank Gasparro, an artist who designed part of the coin. A tiny "FG" is supposed to be on the reverse side of each half, just to the right of the eagle's tail feathers.

"Estimated value for the variety is in the \$5 to \$10 area, as usual depending on the quantity that turns up," wrote coinage expert Alan Herbert in the hobby newspaper Numismatic News. So far, only collectors living in states served by the Cleveland Federal Reserve bank have reported finding the "no-initials halves."

Earlier, four collectors discovered 1982-dated dimes with missing mint marks. Experts say those coins might sell for from \$50 to \$125 each.

● Again this summer, several persons between the ages of 11 and 17 will win scholarships to one-week seminars sponsored by the American Numismatic Association.

The young people will study subjects such as detecting counterfeit coins or coin grading. Scholarships pay for room and board, tuition and round-trip airfare to the seminar city [either Colorado Springs, Colo., from July 10 to 16 or Los Angeles from Aug. 7 to 13].

For application forms, write to ANA Gov. Florence Schook, P.O. Box 2014, Livonia, Mich. 48154.

● Bureaucrats have boosted the price of 1982-dated half dollars honoring George Washington's 250th birthday, blaming the gyrating silver market.

Proof specimens now cost \$12, up from \$10.50, and uncirculated coins also jumped \$1.50, to \$10. Each commemorative coin contains .36 of an ounce of silver.

Mint workers have sold 5.3 million coins since sales began last July. By law, production must end before next Dec. 31. To order, write to the Bureau of the Mint, 55 Mint St., San Francisco, Calif. 94175.

● The Decatur-based firm of Jess Peters Inc. will auction more than 900 rare foreign coins Wednesday. Sessions will begin at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Tropical Room of Chicago's Continental Hotel, 505 N. Michigan Ave.

● Not to be outdone by Uncle Sam's three coins commemorating the 1984 summer Olympics in Los Angeles, the National Bank of Yugoslavia will issue 18 official government pieces to honor the 1984 winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. For information about the coins [15 silver and 3 gold pieces], write to the Winter Olympic Games Coin Program, P.O. Box 1984, Midtown Station, New York, N.Y. 10018.